from Singapore to France touching India.

(v) Augmentation of Packet Switches to implement more efficient switched date communication facilities.

(vi) Commissioning of Land Earth Station for Mobile communications working on Inmarsat Global Not-work. Inmarsat-A services are in operation from May, 1992. In-maraat-C services are expected to be operational by March, 1993.

(vii) Introduction of International Value Added Services like-video Confe-rencing, EDI etc.

Delivery *ot* Postal Articles in Person

2209. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Postal Department con-template to dispense with the present system of delivery of postal articles in person in all big cities by directing owners of flats to have post boxes at the entrance of the buildings; and

(b) if so, what is the number of postmen that will be rendered surplus ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) No, Sir. Department has notified Mail Delivery Order, 1991 which requires all addresses in stroyed buildings except those at the ground floor to provide mail box at the ground floor for delivery of fully paid unregistered mail addressed to them. All other mail and fully paid unregistered mail of sizes that do not admit of being delivered in the box will continue to be delivered at the address. The Order, however, allows continuance of door delivery of all mail, to addresses who have not yet been able to provide the box to enable smooth transition until the order becomes mandatory at the station.

(b) This is a measure meant to expedite delivery. No surplus post of postman is envisaged at present.

STD Facility in Districts of Bihar

2210. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of District Centres in Bihar where STD facility is not available so far;

(b) what is the number of panchayats in Bihar, which are proposed to be linked by Telephone; and

(c) whether it is a fact that telephone in district centres and such divisions generally remain dead ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) S.T.D, facility is available for all the 50 District Headquarters in Bihar.

(b) 4643 out of 11678 Panchayats in Bihar are already linked with telephone facility and the remaining Panchayats are proposed to be linked with Telephone progressively by 31st March, 1995.

(c) No, Sir. The incidence of faults on telephones is not abnormal in district centres or sub-divisions. However, there may be instances when the exchanges are unable to function due to poor voltage regulation or prolonged interruption in power supply.

Surplus Staff in Department of Telecom-munications

2211. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of employees rendered surplus as on the 31st March, 1992 in the Department of Telecommunications cadrewise list; and

(to) what are the plans of Government for their re-deployment ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise.